

10 December 2008

**TO: ALL MANUFACTURERS**

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### **Areas of Current Interest**

According to the Joint Statement of Principles issued by The R&A and the United States Golf Association (the "USGA") in May 2002, the purpose of the equipment Rules is to protect golf's best traditions, to prevent an over-reliance on technological advances rather than skill and to ensure that skill is the dominant element of success throughout the game. To ensure that this remains the case, The R&A continually reviews the relevance and effectiveness of the Rules and research is conducted into golf equipment. In recent years, we have informed you that research was being conducted on various matters such as golf balls, grooves and clubhead moment of inertia. We also informed you that we were interested in a review of the Rules on club adjustability. In some (but not all) cases, this work has led to a proposal for a Rule change, a period of 'Notice and Comment' and, ultimately, a change to the equipment Rules.

The purpose of this letter is to advise manufacturers that, in conjunction with the USGA, The R&A is planning to conduct some research into high lofted wedges. This is to determine whether clubs with a loft of, for example, over 60 degrees, reduce the challenge of the game for shots near the green.

No further details of the project are available at this time and it must be stressed that, at this stage, no formal proposal is being made. If the work carried out in this area leads The R&A to conclude that a new or modified Rule may be desirable, there will be the usual period of "Notice and Comment" ensuring that manufacturers are given the opportunity to comment on any specific proposals.

If you have any comments that you would like to make on this issue in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



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Director - Research and Testing

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